

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

1570 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203-1818 • (303) 866-2993 • (303) 866-4411 Fax • (303) 866-3883 TTY Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

DATE: Week Ending Friday, March 13, 2009

TO: Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Community

FROM: Ginny Brown, Legislative Liaison and Nicole Storm, Legislative Analyst

RE: Legislative Report – 2009 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Modify Colorado Cares Rx, SB09-132, Senator Boyd and Representative Kerr, passed before House HHS Committee on March 9th and was referred to the Appropriations Committee next week. As the bill reads in its current form, it modifies the Colorado Cares Rx program and requires the Department to make information available to the public regarding the availability of lower-cost generic or discounted prescription drug programs.

HB09-1191, the Department's "**Ahlborn**" proposal or Liens Against Third Parties, Representative McCann and Senator Boyd, was heard before the Senate Judiciary Committee and passed unanimously and sent to the consent calendar. This bill is technical in nature and brings our current state statute in compliance with federal law as it relates to recoveries in tort and casualty cases. The bill limits the state's recovery to only the medical portion.

HB09-1164, **Surcharge on Breast Cancer Awareness Special License Plates**, Representative Primavera and Senator Kester, establishes a twenty five dollar surcharge for the purchase or renewal of breast cancer awareness license plates and expands Medicaid eligibility under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment program (BCCP) to individuals who have been screened by a provider who does not receive funds through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The bill passed on second reading with amendments.

On Friday, HB09-1293, **Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act**, which would allow Colorado to leverage state funds to draw down additional federal funds to provide coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans, was heard before the House Health and Human Services Committee, passing 5:4. The proposal also would help stem the rising cost of health insurance for businesses and families by addressing cost-shifting, one of the key drivers of rising costs, without increasing the burden on taxpayers. By assessing a provider fee on hospitals, Colorado would generate an additional \$600 million a year to provide coverage to the uninsured, and receive \$600 million in federal matching funds. The combined \$1.2 billion would cover more than 100,000 currently uninsured Coloradans through Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). The funds also would improve hospital reimbursement rates for service provided through Medicaid and the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP). The proposal was referred to the House Finance Committee and will be heard next week.

Also on Friday, HB09-1103, **Presumptive Eligibility for Long-term Care**, Representative Riesberg and Senator Newell, passed on third reading in the Senate on Tuesday and the House concurred with Senate amendments to and readopted the bill, 60-2-3 on Friday.

For more information about legislative activities please contact Ginny Brown 303-866-3972 or Nicole Storm 303-866-3180 or access www.colorado.gov to search the General Assembly Web site. A legislative report will be updated weekly on our Web site www.colorado.gov/hcpf under Research and Partners, Legislative Information, Legislative Update.